

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 12, 16-20, 24, 26-31, 33-38, 40, 47, 49-50 and 53-56 are pending in the application.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 3-15, 21-23 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claims 3-11, 13-15, 21-23 and 25 have been canceled herein. As to claim 12, this rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

The Office Action states that claims 3-15, 21-23 and 25 appear to be directed to an alternative embodiment in which the tubular reinforcement body is devoid of a belt and plurality of blocks (defined by corrugated structure having apertures as depicted in Figures 1-4). However, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 12 – a tubular body at least partially embedded in the tread – is supported by the specification. For example, a tubular body at least partially embedded in the tread is described in connection with an embodiment having a belt and a plurality of blocks in the original specification at page 9, line 6 – page 10, line 33 and shown in FIGS. 7 and 8a-b. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 12 is sufficiently described in the specification, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn as to claim 12.

Claims 45 and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because FIG. 10 lacks a reference character for bead 52a. FIG. 10 has been clarified to indicate bead 52a. Claims 45 and 46 have been canceled herein.

Claims 1, 2, 17-19, 24, 26-30, 33-40, 47 and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,170,254 to Jackson ("Jackson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,456,048 to Markow ("Markow").

To expedite allowance independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 41 and intervening claim 39. Accordingly, it is believed

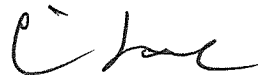
The Examiner's attention is directed to new claims 53-56, which are also believed patentable over the cited references. Applicant notes that independent claim 53 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 48.

Conclusion

It is believed that the present application is in condition for consideration and allowance. If necessary, the Commissioner hereby is authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.

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Respectfully submitted,



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